

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park

Newsletter

For Teachers & School Groups

2007-2008 School Year

Important Dates:

For programs and visits between
September 4, 2007 – December 31, 2007

Reserve now by calling
RESERVE AMERICA toll free.

For programs and visits between
January 2, 2008 – June 30, 2008
Reserve beginning September 15, 2007
by calling RESERVE AMERICA toll free.

For programs and visits between
July 1, 2008 – September 2, 2008
Reserve by calling San Juan Bautista
State Historic Park directly.



Contact Us!

We are happy to assist you in any way we can.
Please contact us with your questions and
concerns:

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park
P.O. Box 787
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

Phone: (831) 623-4881
Fax: (831) 623-4612

E-mail: acombs@parks.ca.gov or
dcable@parks.ca.gov

Quick Reference Numbers

San Juan Bautista SHP: (831) 623-4881
RESERVE AMERICA: (866) 240-4655
Mission San Juan Bautista: (831) 623-4528



Mission Or State Park?

Each year teachers and students misunderstand the difference between Mission San Juan Bautista and San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. The Mission includes the church, cemetery, rectory, and its own garden and gift shop. The State Park includes the Plaza lawn area, Plaza Hotel, Castro-Breen Adobe, Plaza Stable, Plaza Hall, Vicky Cottage, Settler's Cabin, San Juan Jail, restrooms and several historic gardens. (The non-profit Plaza History Association operates the Plaza Hotel gift store with all proceeds supporting the interpretive programs.) The church and state park operate separately from each other.

Since we are located so close together and offer opportunities for learning California history, it is difficult to visit one and not the other. If your group is planning to access ANY portion of the State Park, including the Plaza Lawn or park restrooms, a reservation with the State Park is required. Your group must also make a reservation to visit the Mission at (831) 623-4528.

IMPORTANT NOTE: School groups arriving without a San Juan Bautista State Historic Park confirmed reservation may be denied entrance into the Park OR required to pay an entrance fee of \$2.00 per adult. Entrance fees are waived for all reserved groups.



San Juan Bautista State Historic Park

2007 ~ 2008 School Programs



San Juan Bautista State Historic Park is proud to offer visiting classes three options for learning and understanding early California history. Our programs are very popular and fill quickly since thousands of students visit annually. To prevent over-crowding, all groups must have a reservation. Call **RESERVE AMERICA** and request the program that best suits your needs and teaching style:

Self-Guided Visits

Wander the grounds and buildings of San Juan Bautista State Historic Park on your own time schedule. Features include the:

- Plaza Hotel
- Zanetta House/Plaza Hall
- Plaza Stable
- Castro-Breen Adobe
- Spanish Garden/Settler's Cabin
- Old San Juan Jail

Reservations for Self-guided visits are valid from 10:00am until 4:30pm on the date booked. Schools are **REQUIRED** to maintain a 1:5 chaperone to student ratio in the park. The state park can accommodate a total of 198 people for Self-guided visits.

****Groups with a confirmed reservation for California Over Time or Mission Game do NOT need to make a reservation for a Self-guided visit.**

California Over Time

Join a Park Interpreter for a one-hour journey through the different times and cultures of San Juan Bautista. Using life-sized picture cut-outs, select students will "become" a character of early California. This program helps students visualize the daily life and dress of people and covers the Native American period through the Gold Rush/Statehood period, circa 1850. The program may be conducted in the Plaza Hotel or the Blacksmith shop, depending on weather.

Cost = \$60.00 per program.

Call **RESERVE AMERICA** for available program dates and times.

Mission Game

This program focuses on mission architecture and layout. Each class is divided into 8 groups of students. Groups use a board and wooden blocks to design a mission quadrangle using clues and information given by the park interpreter. This hour-long hands-on interpretive activity encourages critical thinking and teamwork while students learn the reasons behind the layout of a mission. This program is conducted in the Plaza Hotel.

Cost = \$60.00 per program.

Call **RESERVE AMERICA** for available program dates and times.

****Note** – interpretive staff are developing a new program called *Wagons West*. Implementation of this program may reduce the number of Mission Game programs offered in the spring of 2008.

Program Fees

California Over Time and Mission Game programs can accommodate up to 42 people or one class (including chaperones). Conducted programs require interpretive staff and preparation time. Program fees are \$60.00 payable by cash or check on arrival at the park. **PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CHECKS EARLY.**

Make checks payable to: *California State Parks*. The teacher in charge must check in and pay all fees at the Plaza Hotel *prior* to the start of the reserved program(s).

IMPORTANT NOTE: All schools with a confirmed program reservation are responsible for payment upon arrival. Failure to submit payment or last minute cancellation of program(s) will result in an invoice to the school's district.

RESERVE AMERICA Information

California State Parks uses *RESERVE AMERICA* for many historic site reservations. It is our goal to provide clear and accurate instructions and information to educators so their experience with *RESERVE AMERICA* is as positive and user-friendly as possible. We hope this list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers below will assist you in “navigating the system.”

F.A.Q.'s (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q1. What happens if I want to book a self-guided visit and there is no room on the day I want to visit? Can I book for paid programs and then cancel the program when I arrive at the Park?

A1. No, fee based programs require extra staff and preparation. If you book a paid program, your school/district will be responsible for all charges. We recommend having at least three alternate dates to visit when you call *RESERVE AMERICA*.

Q2. If we book for the mission and do not make a reservation for the park, can we still “drop in” and tour the park buildings?

A2. If the park is at maximum capacity, your school group will not be able to visit the state park. If space is available, all park fees apply and will be charged. NOTE: The best way to avoid entrance fees is to make a reservation with *RESERVE AMERICA*. In addition, if park staff observe a pattern of failing to make reservations, your school will be prohibited from future visits to the park.

Q3. If I book an interpretive program, do I also have to book a self-guided visit?

A3. No, when you book an interpretive program, the self-guided visit is automatically included in the reservation. Please do not double book your school. When you double book, you prevent other schools from visiting the park.



Q4. How do I make a reservation? Can I book on the Internet?

A4. For all school group reservations during the traditional school year, you must call *RESERVE AMERICA* toll free at (866) 240-4655. *RESERVE AMERICA* books reservations 8:00am – 5:00pm, 7 days a week. For additional information, maps, and teacher materials, please visit the California State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov. (Make sure to enter San Juan Bautista State Historic Park in the *FIND A PARK* box.)

Q5. What happens if I have to cancel a reservation?

A5. If you need to cancel within 7 days of your visit, please call both *RESERVE AMERICA* and San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. If you are canceling 7 days or more in advance of your visit, please call *RESERVE AMERICA*.

Q6. I have a hard time finding available dates for my class to visit the park during the spring months. What can I do to avoid this hassle?

A6. Consider visiting during less busy times, such as fall or winter. If you absolutely must visit in the spring, call *RESERVE AMERICA* as soon as reservations are accepted (see calendar on page 1). We also advise having at least 3 alternate dates selected before you make the call.

Check-In Procedures & Field Trip Behavior

Whether you have booked a self-guided visit or fee based program, all schools are required to check-in with park staff immediately upon arrival at the Plaza Hotel. At check-in, you may be given a copy of the state park rules to go over with your students, or a staff member may orient your group to the park rules and features.

In order to preserve the unique resource of San Juan Bautista State Historic Park and to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment, it is imperative that all teachers and chaperones are aware that *they* are responsible for their students' behavior. If any pattern of misconduct is observed, the group may be asked to leave the park, and the school may be prohibited from future visits to the state park.

San Juan Bautista Interpretive Materials

San Juan Bautista SHP offers a variety of interpretive materials aimed at preparing teachers and students for their visit. These materials are available for purchase by mail order or at the Plaza Hotel. Mail the attached order form with checks made payable to *California State Parks* to:

San Juan Bautista SHP
ATTN: Interpretive Materials
P.O. Box 787
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

San Juan Bautista Video

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park offers its very popular video in VHS format. This 12-minute video, titled *San Juan Bautista – The Early Years*, offers a narrated synopsis of San Juan Bautista's history from the Native American period to present day.

\$15.00 per video cassette

San Juan Bautista SHP Scavenger Hunt

An up-to-date, educational, discovery package, this scavenger hunt asks thought provoking questions and promotes teamwork and focus. Teachers may purchase one master packet (including answer key) and make copies for distribution.

\$3.00 per packet

San Juan Bautista Teacher's Packet

This "quick reference" packet offers information regarding San Juan Bautista, historical figures, buildings, and eras. **\$2.00 per booklet**

No Pencil Policy

A scavenger hunt is a good activity for students to stay focused and engaged, especially those on a self-guided visit. Teachers may choose to design their own scavenger hunt or purchase San Juan Bautista SHP's official scavenger hunt. Regardless of which scavenger hunt is used, please remember our "no pencil" policy for students in any of the buildings. We recommend providing each chaperone with a clipboard and an attached writing utensil to record students' answers.

****We are currently brainstorming a new scavenger hunt that would not require writing (stamps, or ??), if you have any ideas, please share.**



Interpretive Materials Order Form

Shipping Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

School Name: _____

Item	Unit Price	Quantity	Total
Early Years Video cassette	\$15.00		
Scavenger Hunt Package	\$3.00		
Teacher's Packet	\$2.00		
Teacher's Guide	\$15.00	Out of Print	
Shipping	\$1.00 per item	Total #	
			Total \$

Make checks payable to: *California State Parks*

San Juan Bautista SHP
ATTN: Interpretive Materials
P.O. Box 787
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

If you have any questions about your order please call (831) 623-4881.